Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A ~~metadata validation~~ system for <u>object model design and validation</u> ~~validating an object model~~, the system comprising:

a client device configured to receive user input and provide a user interface to a user;

a database for storing objects corresponding to <u>an</u> [the] object model and <u>for storing</u> metadata <u>objects</u> describing the object model <u>while designing the object model</u>;

a configuration management module for creating a deployable collection of metadata objects <u>from the metadata objects stored in the database</u> ~~using the object model~~, wherein the deployable collection represents a tree of <u>metadata</u> objects starting at a root <u>metadata</u> object; and

a validation engine for validating the metadata <u>objects stored</u> in the database by confirming the metadata <u>objects comply</u> ~~complies~~ with one or more validation rules, wherein said validation engine is configured to perform completeness validation on <u>the deployable collection</u> ~~a validation subject~~ in response to a user entered command to perform validation on the validation subject, to automatically perform correctness validation on <u>the deployable collection</u> ~~a validation subject~~ when the subject is created or updated, and to automatically perform completeness and correctness validation on <u>the deployable collection</u> ~~a validation subject~~ when requested by the configuration management module.

2. - 7. (Canceled)

8.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method <u>for object model design and validation</u> ~~of validating metadata in an object model~~, the method comprising:

creating an instance of a meta metadata object <u>of an object model</u> in response to user input;

automatically applying one or more correctness type validation rules to the object instance by confirming the object instance complies with the one or more correctness type validation rules;

if a user selects validation of the object instance, applying one or more completeness validation rules to the object instance; and

automatically applying both the one or more correctness validation rules and the one or more completeness validation rules to the object instance prior to deployment of the object instance<u> at runtime.</u>

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the meta metadata object is one of an attribute, an association, an object and a collection of objects.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the meta metadata object is an association and wherein the object instance to which a validation rule is applied includes [the] two objects associated by the association.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further including automatically applying the one or more correctness type validation rules to the instance if the instance is automatically updated or manually updated.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the meta metadata object is one of an attribute and an object.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the meta metadata object is one of an aggregated collection and a deployable collection.

14.   (Currently Amended) A system for <u>object model design and validation, the system including a server system</u> <s>validating metadata in an object model</s>, the system comprising:

a database for storing objects and for storing meta metadata objects of an [the] object model while designing the object model;

means for creating an instance of a meta metadata object of the object model in response to user input; and

a validation means for automatically applying one or more correctness type validation rules to the object instance when the instance is created by confirming the object instance complies with the one or more correctness type validation rules, for applying one or more completeness validation rules to the object instance if a user manually selects validation of the object instance, and for automatically applying both the one or more correctness validation rules and the one or more completeness validation rules to the object instance prior to deployment of the object instance.

15.   (New) The system of claim 1, further including a deployment manager to deploy the validated metadata objects during runtime.

16.   (New) The system of claim 8, further including:

after applying both the one or more correctness validation rules and the one or more completeness validation rules, deploying the object instance during runtime.